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## **Homeless Funding Hits New Record**

**PHOENIX (December 23, 2005)**—The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced the biggest funding award for homeless programs ever to be received in the Maricopa Association of Governments region.

On Tuesday, December 20, HUD announced that funding in the amount of \$20,043,200 will be awarded to 48 homeless assistance programs operated by nonprofit agencies and local governments in the MAG region (see attached list). MAG's Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is responsible for developing and submitting the annual regional coordinated grant application for the HUD funds. The funding will be used to provide housing and other services for homeless individuals and families. The MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is made up of representatives from the public and private sectors and nonprofit organizations.

The funding is provided as part of the federal Stuart B. McKinney Act, which allocates funding for transitional and permanent supportive housing programs. "This funding is very important to homeless people in the Valley. It supports homeless families and individuals as they achieve stability in housing and work to resolve issues contributing to their homelessness," said City of Phoenix Councilman Greg Stanton, chair of the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness.

The award supports one new program through the Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation with more than \$1.3 million to provide permanent housing for 82 chronically homeless individuals. Forty-seven programs will also be renewed with the funding.

The money received in the Maricopa region provides 1,495 beds in permanent housing programs and 1,599 beds in transitional housing programs. The grant also funds supportive services to help homeless people break the cycle of homelessness and help them rejoin the community in a positive way.

"Over the past seven years, the Continuum has been responsible for securing more than \$106 million in homeless funding for our region," said Councilman Stanton. "The amount received this year is the highest award ever received by our region, and we are confident that this funding will help to improve the lives of many Valley residents."

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*(Note: A complete listing of projects is attached.)*